

Transgenic Plants

2453. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of field trials for transgenic plants going on in the country;

(b) the details of crops and the names of the companies involved in the process, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to bring transparency in issuing permits for the field trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Three limited field trials are going on in the country on transgenic mustard (Brassica) at Gurgaon, Haryana and Doddaballapur, Karnataka by M/s. Proagro PGS India Ltd., New Delhi; and transgenic cotton at Jalna, Maharashtra by M/s. Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Co., Mumbai.

(c) Permits are issued in accordance with the Rules for the Manufacture, use, import, export and storage of hazardous micro-organisms/genetically engineered organisms or cells notified by the Ministry of Environment & Forests vide Notification No. GSR1037 (E), dated 5.12. 1989, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The clearances from National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR) are also obtained.

[*Translation*]

Rural Development Projects of Gujarat

2454. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

DR. A.K. PATEL :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has been assisting some rural development projects in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and the present status of each of them;

(c) the number of villages in the State facing acute shortage of water;

(d) the time by which the problem of potable water is likely to be solved in the rural areas of the State; and

(e) the funds allocated under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission to the State during 1995-96 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPY YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) There are 1435 not covered habitation in Gujarat yet to be provided with safe drinking water facilities.

(d) The State Government is expected to provide drinking water facilities to all Non Covered habitations by 1997-98.

(e) Allocation for Gujarat for 1995-96 was Rs. 3850 lakh and for 1997-98 it is Rs. 4987 lakh.

[*English*]

Telecast of Old Films

2455. SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE : SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Film Development Corporation has decided to telecast some old films based on the theme of freedom movement in the Golden Jubilee year celebrations of the Indian Independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Culture has shot down the proposal; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has not made any proposal for telecast of old films based on the theme of freedom movement on Doordarshan as a part of celebration of 50 Years of India's Independence. However, NFDC has made a proposal to Department of Culture for exhibition of 13 films on the theme of freedom movement both theatrically and through video for schools, colleges and in semi-urban and rural areas so as to inform the newer generation on freedom struggle and to regenerate national pride. The Department of Culture proposes to screen these films through video.

[*Translation*]

Documentaries

2456. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received to make documentaries depicting departmental achievements on

the occasion of golden jubilee year and the sources from which these proposals have been received;

(b) the number of proposals accepted, rejected and the number of films made; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid delay in the work depicting achievements through films and to make films as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Four proposals have been received by the Films Division to make documentaries depicting departmental achievements on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year. Three of them are from the Ministry of External Affairs for production of video films on the titles "Development in Energy", "Development in Agriculture" and "Development in Industry". The fourth one is from the Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language) for production of film on 'Rajabhasha Hindi Ke Prachar Prasar Sambandit film'. It has been decided to produce the above films.

(c) No delay is anticipated in completion of the above films.

Construction of Flyover

2457. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the places in the country where flyovers are being constructed in the railway lines falling on National Highways;

(b) whether the Government are considering to construct a flyover near Maksi Railway Station on Ujjain-Bhopal railway line falling on Agra-Mumbai National Highway; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Information is not maintained Highway-wise.

(b) and (c) A Road Over Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 51 A at Maksi on Ujjain - Bhopal was approved in the Budget of 1987-88. The State Govt. had not approved the drawing till 1993 due to which the work had to be dropped from the Railways' Work Programme of 1994-95.

Maithon Thermal Power Station

2458. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up Maithon right bank Thermal Power Station;

(b) whether the Overseas Economic Finance Corporation of Japan has allocated funds for this project

but the Government has transferred this amount for another project in U.P.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various alternatives for funding the execution of Maithon Right Bank Thermal Project of the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) have been considered including position it to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of the Government of Japan. OECF has not allocated any funds for the project so far.

Fluoride affected Water in Rajasthan

2459. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSIWAL : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that various types of ailments are spreading among the villagers of Tonk district in Rajasthan due to excess contents of fluoride in drinking water;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking any action in this regard for a long time; and

(c) the time by which remedial action is likely to be taken in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At the instance of Government of India, the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited has prepared and submitted a Project Report on Pilot Project for providing safe drinking water to 171 fluoride affected villages of block Tonk in Rajasthan at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.38 crore. The proposed Pilot project has already been considered by the Government of India and sent to the State Government of Rajasthan for their comments/suggestions for further action in the matter.

[English]

Development of Scientific Establishments

2460. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to develop science and technology to promote the causes of scientists and also to develop scientific establishments;

(b) whether the Government are laying any emphasis in that regard; and